

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE
STATE OF FLORIDA

**INQUIRY CONCERNING A
JUDGE, NO. 08-373,
PETER A. BELL**

SC08-

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION OF DISCIPLINE

The Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission (the “JQC”) served a Notice of Investigation on Charlotte County Judge Peter A. Bell pursuant to Rule 6(b) of the Florida Judicial Qualification Commission Rules. This inquiry culminated with the JQC filing a Notice of Formal charges dated January 8, 2009.

The Investigative Panel of the Commission has now entered into a Stipulation with Judge Bell in which Judge Bell admits that his conduct, while well intentioned, resulted in the inappropriate incarceration of the victim of a domestic battery case. This conduct violated Canons 1, 2A, and 3B(1) and 3B(2) of the Code of Judicial Conduct, as set forth in the Stipulation submitted herewith.

Judge Bell has admitted the foregoing, accepts full responsibility, and acknowledges that such conduct should not have occurred. Judge Bell now recognizes that this understanding was incorrect and has undertaken steps to prevent their reoccurrence.

The Judicial Qualifications Commission has concluded that while the judge’s conduct was misguided, it was not ill intentioned. Accordingly, the Commission therefore finds and recommends that in the interests of justice, the

public welfare and sound juridical administration will be well served by a public
reprimand of Judge Bell.

Respectfully submitted,

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